

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 23 MAR 2005

REVISED CLAIM 1

A device for the 3D free-form bending of profiles (7) with constant outside dimensions over their length, particularly with a circular shape, wherein said device comprises a feed unit (3) that contains a rotary drive for turning the profile (7) about its longitudinal axis (L) and serves for moving the profile (7) with a longitudinal axis (L) in a feed direction (V) that extends parallel to this longitudinal axis (L), namely through a guide element (1) with a through-opening (1c) that adjoins the surface of the profile (7) and a bending sleeve (5) that at least partially encloses the profile (7) to be bent and is arranged downstream of the guide element (1) referred to the feed direction (V), wherein said bending sleeve is held in a carrier element (4) and can be pivoted about an axis that extends perpendicular to the feed direction (V) of the profile (7), as well as displaced perpendicular to the longitudinal axis (L) and the pivoting axis, together with said carrier element such that the bending sleeve (5) acts upon the profile (7) in a bending fashion, wherein

- a) the guide element (1) contains means for supporting the profile (7) such that it can be turned about the longitudinal axis (L) in or with the guide element (1),
- b) the bending sleeve (5) contains means for supporting the profile (7) such that it can be turned about the longitudinal axis (L) in or with the bending sleeve (5),
- c) the bending sleeve (5) is supported such that it can be eccentrically pivoted about a first hinge point (P_1) of a rocker (4a) by means of the carrier element (4), wherein the rocker (4a), in turn, is supported such that it can be pivoted about a second hinge

point (P_2) that is arranged eccentric to the longitudinal axis (L) of the profile on the same side of the profile as the first hinge point (P_1), and

- d) the carrier element is held in a guide groove (2d) on the opposite side of the profile referred to the hinge points (P_1 , P_2), namely such that the inner surface region of the bending sleeve (5) that acts upon the outside of the profile (7) in a bending fashion is, discounting the resilience of the profile (7), always aligned tangential referred to a circular arc that corresponds to the respectively desired bending radius when changing the position of the part of the carrier element (4) that is supported in the guide groove (2d).